

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 188269

FOR EA ONLY, MANILA POUCH CEBU, EA FOR MR. HOLBROOKE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, EGEN, RP

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - PHILIPPINES

1. FIRSTLADY TO VISIT WASHINGTON (CONFIDENTIAL)
AFTER A TWO-WEEK SOJOURN IN NEW YORK, IMELDA MARCOS WILL
VISIT WASHINGTON JULY 26 TO SIGN A \$88 MILLION WORLD BANK
LOAN AGREEMENT WITH ROBERT MCNAMARA(FOR WHICH US
VOTED AFFIRMATIVELY) THE BANK ITSELF INTENDS TO GIVE THE
SIGNING NO PUBLICITY, AND HOPES THERE WILL BE NONE IN THE
US. IBRD WILL ALLOW ONLY ONE PHOTOGRAPHER AT THE CEREMONY,
HAVING LEARNED FROM ITS PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE ON A SIMILAR
OCCASION WHEN IMELDA WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A LARGE MEDIA EN-
TOURAGE. THAT AFTERNOON IMELDA WILL MEET WITH REP. BERKLEY
BEDELL (D-IOWA) AND ABOUT A DOZEN OTHER HOUSE MEMBERS. AT
LAST REPORT, THEY INCLUDED WOLFF, SIBERLING, CONTE, DRINAN,
RYAN, MEYNER, HARKIN, ZABLOCKI, STARK, LONG (CLARENCE),
BURTON,3RADEMAS, ; AND WRIGHT. SOME ARE CO-SIGNERS
OF BEDELL'S APRIL LETTER TO MARCOS ON HUMAN RIGHTS; OTHERS,
SUCH AS ZABLOCKI, DID NOT SIGN THE LETTER BUT WERE EVIDENTLY
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INVITED BECAUSE OF THEIR INFLUENCE ON THE HILL.

THE VICE PRESIDENT WILL RECEIVE MRS. MARCOS ON JULY 27 AT
1400. WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT SHE HAS ANY PARTICULAR
ISSUES TO RAISE, BUT WE HAVE ASKED THE VICE PRESIDENT TO

WEIGH IN AGAIN ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

WITHIN HOURS AFTER MRS. MARCOS LEAVES TOWN, FOREIGN MINISTER ROMULO IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE. HE IS COMING ALMOST A WEEK EARLIER THAN NECESSARY FOR THE ASEAN MINISTERIAL, BUT WE HAVE NO INDICATION OF HIS PLANS BEYOND SOME CALLS ON CAPITOL HILL (E.G., SENATOR INOUE).

2. ANTI-BASES DEMONSTRATION AT THE DEPARTMENT (L.O.U.)

A WELL-MANNERED GROUP OF ABOUT 15 AMERICAN AND FILIPINOS STAGED AN ORDERLY DEMONSTRATION OUTSIDE THE DIPLOMATIC ENTRANCE AT LUNCHTIME ON JULY 24 TO DEMAND THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. BASES FROM THE PHILIPPINES. THEY CHANTED SLOGANS, AND CARRIED PLACARDS AND HANDED OUT LITERATURE. THE MAIN THEMES WERE QUOTE NO MORE VIET-NAMS UNQUOTE, THE BASES REPRESENT SUPPORT FOR THE MARCOS DICTATORSHIP, AID TO U.S. CITIES SHOULD HAVE PRIORITY OVER MILITARY ASSISTANCE, ETC. AS THEIR FINAL ACT, THE DEMONSTRATORS PRESENTED A LETTER ADDRESSED TO YOU WHICH WE ACCEPTED. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE DEMONSTRATION FLOWED FROM THE WEEKEND CONVENTION OF THE MOVEMENT FOR A FREE PHILIPPINES.

THE DEMONSTRATORS' LITERATURE WAS ATTRIBUTED TO THE FRIENDS OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE WHICH HAS TWO DIFFERENT ADDRESSES IN NORTHEAST WASHINGTON, AND THE LETTER TO YOU CAME FROM THE QUOTE CAMPAIGN TO REMOVE U.S. BASES FROM THE PHILIPPINES UNQUOTE WHICH SHARES ONE OF THE FFP'S ADDRESSES. LATER IN CONFIDENTIAL

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THE DAY WE RECEIVED A COPY OF A JULY 7 LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT FROM FRED A ROSEN, COORDINATOR OF QUOTE THE COALITION OF GRASS ROOTS WOMEN, INTERNATIONAL TASK FORCE UNQUOTE IN NEW YORK; HER LETTER IS ALMOST IDENTICAL IN WORDING TO THE DEMONSTRATORS' LETTER TO YOU. IT APPEARS THAT WE AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS MAY HAVE TO GIRD OURSELVES FOR A LETTER-WRITING CAMPAIGN.

3. INTL. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 1981 MEETING TO BE HELD IN MANILA(CONFIDENTIAL)

WILLIS ARMSTRONG, FORMER ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS (1972-74) AND NOW WITH THE INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, HAS INFORMED US THAT THE ICC HAS DECIDED TO HOLD ITS NEXT WORLD MEETING (1981) IN MANILA, AFTER HEAVY PRESSURING FROM THE GOP FOR THE PHILIPPINES TO HOST THE AFFAIR. THE ICC IS SOMEWHAT CONCERNED THAT EITHER FERDINAND OR IMELDA MARCOS WILL WISH TO GIVE THE OPENING ADDRESS AND SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY TO TRY TO DOMINATE THE CONVENTION AND ITS PRESS COVERAGE. THE ICC HOPES TO MINIMIZE THIS. FOREIGN MINISTER ROMULO HAS JUST INFORMED THE ICC THAT HE WILL BE PLEASED TO REPRESENT THE NEXT SITE'S GOVERNMENT AT THIS YEAR'S MEETING, TO BE HELD OCTOBER 1-6 AT DISNEYWORLD

THE ICC IS NOW TRYING TO RECONCILE THE CONFLICTING CLAIMS
OF AN ALREADY SET AGENDA AND THE ANTICIPATED DESIRE OF
ROMULO (WHO WAS NOT INVITED) TO GIVE A LENGTHY ADDRESS TO
THE CONVENTION.

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